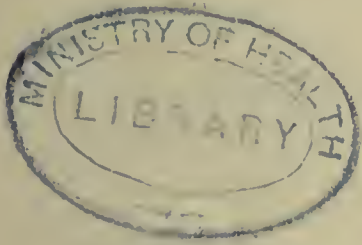


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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1952.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

W. E. BREEDS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.S.I.B.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1953.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that no undue incidence of serious infectious disease occurred during the year and that the vital statistics, on Page 1, compare favourably with those for the rest of the country.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect to the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burtt, for his co-operation and his assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Stace Masey, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Herl E Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 2.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.

Rateable value - £42,895.

Production of a penny rate - £175. 7. 9d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,808

LIVE BIRTHS.

			Comparative figures	
	Male.	Female.	(a) Shaftesbury R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	74	70	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.8	16.5
Legitimate	73	69		
Illegitimate	1	1		

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	5	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.5	0.5	0.35
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DEATHS.

Total	58	58	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.8	9.3	11.3
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Deaths in infants under one year	1	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 13.9	13.9	27.6
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Deaths from Tuberculosis - 3

Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council.

The Laboratory Services, provided by the Salisbury and West Dorset Group Management Committee, have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

M.E. Breeds, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.S.I.B. - Sanitary Inspector.
Lt. Col. T. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time for meat inspection only).

Clerical staff - one clerk (full time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity. No serious shortages of water came to my notice during the year.

(b) quality. The bacteriological and chemical quality of all the principal supplies remained satisfactory during the year. These are chlorinated. The only supplies which remained consistently unsatisfactory were the Motcombe supply from Colefield springs and the Bourton supply. The latter supply is still used in an unchlorinated condition.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of sample.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Melbury Abbas	10	All satisfactory.
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	7	All satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	10	All satisfactory.
Motcombe	19	15 satisfactory. 3 unsatisfactory. 1 suspect.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	8	All satisfactory.
Other supplies	15	9 satisfactory. 1 suspect. 5 unsatisfactory.

New works carried out during the year. A 9" main was laid from the Borehole site at Stubhampton up to the site of the proposed new reservoir at Hill Farm, Iwerne Minster. This main will be the rising main when pumps are installed at the boreholes, but until such time as it is used for this purpose, it has been connected to the existing mains at Hill Farm so that three supplies for agricultural purposes could be made available in the Blandford Rural District.

A further length of 9" and 4" main was laid from Hill Farm, Iwerne Minster down to and connected up to the mains that existed at Tower Hill, Iwerne Minster. It is hoped that this connection will overcome shortage difficulties experienced from time to time at Iwerne Hill and will, when the boreholes at Stubhampton are developed and the reservoir at Hill Farm constructed, serve as a main to supply Iwerne Minster and Shroton (part of the Blandford Rural District) from the Stubhampton source instead of from Boyne Hollow.

New mains were laid from Commonmead Lane, Gillingham, through Eccliffe and Bugley to Bowden Reservoir and a 30,000 gallon pumping sump constructed together with a small pumping station and electricity operated automatic pumping machinery at Commonmead Lane. By these new works it is possible to pump water from the Gillingham source to Bowden Reservoir and from the latter to gravitate it to the southern part of the district, namely, the area that is normally supplied from Boyne Hollow. The reverse can also apply in that the water could be passed back into Gillingham from Bowden Reservoir to provide a supply should the necessity arise.

These newly laid mains have also provided supplies for agricultural and domestic requirements in the two small localities i.e. Eccliffe and Bugley, the only remaining areas of Gillingham that were not connected to the Council's mains.

Four inch mains were laid from a point near the Bowden

Reservoir through the village of Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston to replace, in the case of Kington Magna, the small pipes that had been in use for many years to provide additional requirements in Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston. Now the mains connecting Gillingham and Bowden, Bowden and Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston have been completed, practically no water is pumped through the Wyke Booster at Gillingham resulting in a considerable saving of electricity.

It can now be stated that Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston have satisfactory and adequate water supplies.

New Connections.

- (1) Domestic Supplies - 29
- (2) Agricultural Supplies - 17
- (3) Supplies for other purposes - 2

These supplies have been made available in the following parishes:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Domestic Supply.</u>	<u>Agricultural.</u>	<u>Other Purposes.</u>
Ashmore	1		
Bourton	5		
Buckhorn Weston	1		
Compton Abbas	1		
East Stour	3	2	
Fontmell Magna	1	1	2
Gillingham	5	6	
Iwerne Minster	3	2	
Kington Magna	2	2	
Motcombe	4	3	
Stour Provost	2	1	
Todber	1		

Distribution. It is regretted that no up to date information is available with regard to the number of houses (and population) in each parish provided with a main supply of water, or by outside standpipes, well, or spring supplies.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Gillingham Sewerage. As a result of pressure from the Avon & Dorset River Board, action was taken during the year to prepare a comprehensive sewerage scheme for Gillingham with a view to the immediate provision of sewers and works to deal with the sewage from the Great House Farm housing site and adjacent areas of Gillingham.

Post-war Sewerage Schemes. The preliminary surveys were completed during the year in the parishes of Kington Magna, Buckhorn Weston and Bourton, preparatory to the submission of schemes to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for adequate sewerage for these parishes.

Public Nuisances. Serious complaints were received during the year with regard to smell and other nuisances from a piggery at Iwerne Minster. As a result of the action taken by the Council, the nuisance was considerably reduced and it is hoped that during the coming summer months no further action will be called for in this connection.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and

a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was as follows:-

	t.	c.	q.	lbs.
Mixed Paper	39	2	3	-
Newspaper	2	14	2	-
Books	5	6	-	-
Cardboard	4	18	-	-
Heavy Scrap	12	9	-	-
Rags	3	6	-	-
Bagging	2	19	1	-
Bones		8	3	-
Carpet		6	3	-
String		3	-	-
Brass		1	3	20
Copper			1	14
Rolled Aluminium		3	0	4
Cable Lead			3	19
Soft Lead			1	16
Irony Brass			2	11
Total Collection	-	72.	1.	1.
Income	-	3636.	17s.	3d.

(b) Cesspool emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Iwerne Minster Bacon Factory - trade effluent. The Minister's decision with regard to the terms under which the Council are to accept into their sewers the trade effluent from the Dorset Bacon Factory having been made known, the Council are now in a position to go ahead and carry out the necessary works in connection with their Iwerne Minster Scheme, not only in order to deal with the trade effluent from the Bacon Factory, but also to deal effectively with the large amount of sub-soil water infiltration into Iwerne Minster Sewers which, in wet periods, has caused the works to cease to function.

There is evidence of stream pollution in most parishes, and the pollution of the river from the factory effluents and crude sewage of Gillingham continues as before and will only be eliminated when properly constructed sewerage schemes are provided in this parish.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	32
No. of defects found	2
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	9	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	18	-
Total	49	27	3

	No. of cases in which defects were -		
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>

Want of cleanliness	4	4	2
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Unsuitable or defective	3	2	2
Total -	7	6	4

No. of outworkers = 74

It will be noted that inspection of all the factories on the register was not carried out during the year.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access in the district.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites licensed in the district. Licences in connection with the occupation of three movable dwellings were granted during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfestation of four houses infested with fleas was carried out during the year. D.D.T. solution was the method employed.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. Re-organisation and increased staffing by the Joint Committee provided for the control measures to be carried out more promptly and efficiently than before.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

Inspection of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

During the hot summer months the old and antiquated type of latrines at the Fontmell Magna Primary School were found on inspection to be in a grossly insanitary condition and the Council took informal action to get an improvement in the conditions there. It is essential that radical improvements are carried out with regard to the type of latrines in use at this school before another summer comes, if serious risk of dysentery or other fly-borne diseases is to be avoided.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care

and attention and living in insanitary conditions.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 195
No. of inspections made 270

No. of informal notices served 66
No. of informal notices complied with 49
No. of statutory notices served 9
No. of statutory notices complied with 5

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 19

Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made 8

(b) Undertakings accepted for -

(i) Closure 1

(ii) Reconditioning 6

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority Nil

No. of cases of overcrowding abated Nil

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Total No. of houses in the district 2,597

Rural Housing Survey.

Classification.	No. of inspections during 1952		No. of inspections before 1952	
	Prelim.	Detailed.	Prelim.	Detailed.
Cat.1. Satisfactory	-	-	216	4
2. Requiring minor repairs	-	-	501	22
3. Requiring minor repairs, alterations or improvement	-	2	629	74
4. Appropriate for re-conditioning	4	6	369	101
5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	34	30	398	120

Requisitioned premises etc.

Thirty-two houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. Seven houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
During 1952	-	-	48	-
Post-war	-	8	256	44

Total No. of families re-housed during 1952 55

It will be noted that 48 new Council houses were completed and 55 families re-housed during the year compared with 63 and 78 respectively during the preceding year.

At the end of the year there were 322 applicants for Council houses, of which 237 were resident within the district.

ALLOCATION OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The allocation of Council houses where demand is materially in excess of supply is an unenviable task and rarely can all applicants feel satisfied with the method adopted.

The task is even more difficult in a rural area where the individual needs in a parish have to be balanced against the needs in the district as a whole.

I am satisfied that the method of allocation adopted by the Council secures that the available accommodation is allocated to those applicants in the greatest housing need.

Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

Four applications for Improvement Grants under these Acts were received during the year and are still under consideration.

The conditions governing the making of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 have been modified and it is anticipated that in consequence a greater number of applications will be received. The financial limits have been raised so that a maximum grant of £400 may be made in approved cases. Agricultural service cottages may now be included and this, together with the considerable easing of the building licensing situation, offers a good opportunity for improving housing conditions in rural areas at much less expense to the local authority than the building of new houses. It is felt that by this means many of the sub-standard cottages in the district could be restored to a useful life.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949
by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk
(Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 3

No. of 'dealers' licenced under regulation 14 of the
Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and
Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 1

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 2

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation
8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination
during the year (by arrangement with the Dorset County Council) --

Tuberculin Tested	<u>52</u>
Accredited	<u>7</u>
Pasteurised	<u>207</u>

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	55
No. being - restaurant kitchens	4
hotel kitchens	5
food factories	5
No. inspected being -- restaurant kitchens	4
hotel kitchens	-
food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	28
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	
(a) Ice-cream	18
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	10
No. of premises inspected during the year	28
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	12

Grade 1	-	3
" 2	-	3
" 3	-	6

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. The arrangements for meat inspection at the Bacon Factories in the district remains as before. It is not practicable to arrange for the ante mortem examination of carcasses at these factories as advocated in Ministry of Food Circular 14 of 1952.

Result of Inspection.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned.</u>		<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed		89,612
Number inspected		36,906
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>		
Whole carcass condemned		30
Carcass of which some part of organ was condemned		43
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>		
Whole carcass condemned		270
Carcass of which some part of organ condemned		8,062
Percentage of number slaughtered affected with tuberculosis		9.2

(b) Butchers and other shops.

<u>Quantities condemned:-</u>	Fresh meat	-	160 lbs.
	Canned meat	-	243 lbs.
	Other Foods	-	108 lbs.
	Total	-	511 lbs.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	6
No. of disinfections carried out	5

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,720
Total No. of informal notices served	78
Total No. of informal notices complied with	62
Total No. of statutory notices served	11
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	7
No. of prosecutions	1

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4
Scarlet Fever	7
Measles	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Whooping Cough	7

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
3	2	4	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

PROTECTIVE INNOCULATION.

The value of protective inoculation against Diphtheria has proved itself to such an extent that, except in the largest centres of population, Diphtheria is now virtually unknown. This satisfactory position can only be maintained providing at least 75% of the babies born are immunised against Diphtheria. The response to immunisation in the district does not reach this standard. A generation of parents to whom Diphtheria is only a name cannot be expected to respond to appeals to have their children immunised as parents did ten years ago.

Increasing demands come from parents, fully aware of the distress and suffering occasioned by an attack of Whooping Cough, for their offspring to have protective inoculation against this disease.

It is suggested that the results so far achieved in connection with the protection of children against the worst effects of Whooping Cough by prophylactic inoculation justifies immunisation against this disease being adopted to the same extent as that against Diphtheria.

If immunisation against Whooping Cough was combined with immunisation against Diphtheria (which has been shown to be possible) then it is suggested that not only will the benefits be obtained in respect to Whooping Cough, but also that the level of immunisations against Diphtheria would be maintained at a higher level than can otherwise reasonably be expected.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

